



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR  
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD FOUR  
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE  
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE  
HON. JASON N. GRAHAM, WARD ONE  
HON. WILLIAM C. WITHERS, JR., WARD TWO  
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE

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**March 23, 2021**

**The Council** of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, beginning at 7:54 p.m. using electronic communication through GoToMeeting pursuant to and in compliance with the City Council Ordinance 20-05, an ordinance to address Continuity of City Government during the pendency of a pandemic disaster.

**City Council Present.** Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw. Vice-Mayor Charlie L. Frye, Jr., Council members Kerry P. Devine, Dr. Timothy P. Duffy, Jason N. Graham, Matthew J. Kelly and William C. Withers, Jr.

**Also Present.** City Manager Timothy P. Baroody, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Assistant City Attorney Dori Martin, Fire Chief Mike Jones, Police Chief Brian Layton, Budget Manager Brenna Erford, Community Planning and Building Services Director Charles Johnston, Senior Planner Michael Craig, Community Development Planner Susanna Finn, Zoning Administrator James Newman, Historic Resources Planner Kate Schwartz, Parks, Recreation and Special Events Director Jane Shelhorse, Economic Development Administrator Bill Freehling, Deputy Clerk of Council Brenda Martin and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

**Notice of Public Hearings (D21-\_\_ thru D21-\_\_).** The Clerk read the notice of the public hearings as they appeared in the local newspaper, the purpose being to solicit citizen input.

**Ordinance 21-05, First Read, Rezoning Approximately 0.28 Acres of Land, Identified as 507 Weedon Street and 506 Spottswood Street, from Commercial-Highway (CH) to R-8 Residential (D21-\_\_).** No speakers. Mr. Newman presented a PowerPoint presentation and he gave a brief overview of the project.

Councilor Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-05 on first read, rezoning approximately 0.28 acres of land, identified as 507 Weedon Street and 506 Spottswood Street, from Commercial-Highway (CH) to R-8 Residential; motion was seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly and Withers. Nays (0).

Mayor Greenlaw closed the public hearing but noted that the Council would be accepting comments through April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

**Ordinance 21-06, First Read, Rezoning the VFW Post from R4 to Commercial Transitional, and 11 Parcels on the Eastern Side of Woodford Street from Commercial Transitional to R4, as Envisioned in the Area 6 Small Area Plan (D21-\_\_).** 1 speaker. Mr. Finn presented a PowerPoint presentation.

**Laura Emberson**, 13209 Willow Point Drive, and have a ratified contract on 409 Woodford Street, spoke in support of bringing the zoning in line with the current residential development patterns of the existing houses on Woodford Street.

Councilor Graham made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-06 on first read, rezoning the VFW Post from R4 to Commercial Transitional, and 11 parcels on the eastern side of Woodford Street from Commercial Transitional to R4, as Envisioned in the Area 6 Small Area Plan; motion was seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly and Withers. Nays (0).

Mayor Greenlaw closed the public hearing but noted that the Council would be accepting comments through April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

**Ordinance 21-04, Providing for the Election of City Council Members and School Board Members at the November General Election Date of Odd-Numbered Years (D21-\_\_)**. no speakers. City Attorney Dooley stated that the Governor had signed the bill but had not proposed a delayed effective date and the Council has the option to move the elections to November 2021 or November 2022.

Councilor Kelly stated that he read the concerns about moving the election to November 2021 and he asked whether it was possible to move the elections to 2023. Ms. Dooley said she did not see any authority to do that. The Charter says elections are to be held in May and the statute would allow those elections to move to November 2021 or 2022. When this becomes law the statute will mandate the May 2022 to move

to November 2022 and there will not be any legal authority to move the election a second time.

Councilor Graham said he shared some of the concerns about the long term affects and it had him leaning to the even year elections. He also asked for clarity on the census and redistricting. Ms. Dooley said she could not tell what the rules would be, but she did clarify what the rule were currently.

Councilor Duffy said he was affected by the Electoral Board's perspective on the possibility of moving the elections to November 2021. He said it was mind boggling to have Federal, State and Local election all on the same ballot and he said he did not want that to happen. He was concerned with the local elections being overwhelmed by bi-partisan elections.

Councilor Devine stated that she would prefer the elections stay in the odd year to be aligned with the gubernatorial election and the other local officials such as the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer. She expressed concern that the local issues would be swallowed up by the bigger issues. She was not happy with moving to the even year elections but felt given the circumstances that was where the elections would end up.

Vice-Mayor Frye said he did not want to see the City being pushed into party politics because people tend to get caught up in the hot issues at the time and the Council does not run its campaigns in that manner.

Mayor Greenlaw closed the public hearing but noted that the Council would be accepting comments through April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjourned.** There being no more speakers to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Greenlaw declared the hearing officially adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Mayor

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Tonya B. Lacey, Clerk of Council, CMC